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FOREIGN DOCUMENTS DIVISION/5-1166

Pro-Balkanism --

A Discussion on a Balkan Union, as the Solution
to the South-European problem

This document sets forth various advanced theories developed in certain political circles, with reference to a federation of the Balkan states. Many believe that because of the chronic animosity between the Balkan nations, such a regional federation will never be perfected; they advance, instead, the plan for a European Union. However, the Balkan problem is far more complex than ^{is} generally understood and its solution does not lie in the incorporation of the Balkans into a larger political sphere.

Chapter
1 - A Subjective Treatment

For the past century and a half, persons of all nationalities and professions have participated in heated discussions over the Balkan question. Each one favored the country of his choice. Not only foreign reporters and commentators, but also historians, natural scientists and artists have all voiced opinions on this delicate topic, each being influenced by the country of his choice.

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Tendencies to overcome Balkan chauvinism.

No solution to the Balkan problem will ever be found as long as intolerant nationalistic feelings still persist. However, at the present time there appears a definite relaxation of such an attitude, because of the following factors:

1. The Christian Doctrine, based on love, peace and brotherhood of nations could minimize the "narrowness" of Balkan thought.
2. The Masonic Lodges, working in a widespread, yet secret manner, are another unifying factor in the Balkans. Their greatest drawback is that they cannot appeal to the masses, as a whole, and that they conflict with many Christian groups.
3. Communism is the most recent step taken toward Balkan unification and towards the abandonment of nationalistic feeling.

Ch 2 - Discussion on the Latinate Structure
of the Balkan people.

Its geographic location and topographic structure leaves the Balkan peninsula open to all sides. Throughout the

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ages, a thorough amalgamation took place between the natives of the Balkans and the various invaders.

[The following 15 pages describe in a somewhat detailed manner the history of each one of the Balkan nations. It is essentially a work of research, summarizing the information found in the following books:

"La Peninsule Balkanique" by Ivan Cvijic - Paris 1918, Ed. II

"Hellenism and its Balkan neighbors during recent years," by Serge Gialistros, (Athens 1945)

"Histoire des Roumains" by Nicolae Iorga, (Bucharest 1938) Vol: I.]

The observation is made that Greece has the largest group of racial mixtures of any European nation.

Ch 3. - Discussion of fundamental tendencies of the Balkan spirit.

Several outstanding features characterize the Balkan spirit.

1. The contempt for death arises out of the inherent belief in the immortality of the soul and is the cause for the war-like spirit of the Balkan people.
2. The reverence for one's forefathers was caused by the strong family ties and gave rise to strict moral laws which are largely similar in all parts of the Balkans.
3. The moral law is strictly observed at all times. The glory of honor is foremost, for "life is without worth

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